



Mildred G. Unfried

December 21, 1941 - August 19, 2025

Mildred Katherine (Gartz) Unfried, 83 of Hartford, passed away at home from pancreatic cancer on August 19, 2025. Born December 21, 1941 in Altadena, CA to Mildred Georgia (Johnson) Gartz and William August Gartz, the family moved to McAllen, TX in the Rio Grande Valley when Mildred was seven, following her father's death from mustard gas exposure incurred while serving in WWI. As a nurse, Mildred's mother raised Mildred and her sister, while also caring for her parents. When Mildred was in 9th grade, her mother moved the family to Houston, TX to work at MD Anderson Hospital. Mildred attended Rice University and graduated from the University of Houston in 1964 with a double major in mathematics and chemistry, and a minor in physics. After graduation, Mildred taught middle school math, before joining the Department of Defense Overseas Schools in pursuit of her love of teaching and travel. She taught in Okinawa, Japan; Keflavik, Iceland; and Goose Bay, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada; and earned her master's in education from the University of Oregon through a National Science Foundation scholarship. While teaching in Iceland, Mildred met her future husband, Douglas, an officer in the Navy, in the ward room on the naval base. They were married in Simsbury, CT in June of 1973 and settled in Hartford. Mildred taught math and served as Department Chair at East Hampton High School. She left teaching to care for her mother and mother-in-law and earned a second master's degree in gerontology from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. When she returned to teaching, she taught math at The Hebrew

High School of New England, and was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hartford. She retired in 2015 to help raise her grandchildren and was very active in their lives and school, serving on the Board of Trustees at the Montessori School of Greater Hartford. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Douglas Unfried; her daughter Gretchen Unfried-English, son-in-law, Alan English, and her three grandchildren Everett, George, and Catherine English all of Hartford, CT; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Steve and Amy Unfried (Wilson, WY); nieces Lynne Bates (TX), Karin Goodfellow (TX), Lydia Unfried (NY) and Juliet Unfried (WY); nephews Marc Beddoe (MS) and Thomas Unfried (WA); ten great and great-great nieces and nephews; and fellow grandparent, Mark English, of Cooleemee, NC. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her sister Dr. Helen G. Beddoe of Waveland, MS. The family would like to thank all the friends and neighbors who supported Mildred these last six months with rides, meals, care and support; with special appreciation to Rebecca and Dr. Shawn London, Annelieke and Dr. Peter Schauer, Dr. Florence Chan, Dr. Timothy Hong, the nursing and PCA team of CB2 at Hartford Hospital, and the Hartford Health Care Hospice team. Memorial contributions can be made to the Montessori School of Greater Hartford (MSGH, 141 N. Main St., West Hartford, CT, 06107). A service of remembrance will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 46 Woodland St, Hartford, CT on Saturday, November 15th, 2025 at 12 noon.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace Lutheran Church
46 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Diane C. Bielawski purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mildred G. Unfried.*



Diane C. Bielawski - November 19, 2025 at 12:35 PM

DB

“ *Diane C. Bielawski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mildred G. Unfried.*

Diane C. Bielawski - November 19, 2025 at 12:35 PM

NO

“ *It's crazy but I think of Mrs Unfried fairly often some 20 years after being her student - as I use the trig she taught me in my day to day work. Her smile and kindness were so appreciated and will always be remembered. Her memory is a blessing for me.*

Noe - September 04, 2025 at 06:10 AM

JN

I knew her husband, Doug, as a friend and fellow naval officer back in the 1970s. I remember him speaking lovingly of Mildred, though I never met her in person.

jack norton - March 19 at 12:41 PM

GA

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mrs. Unfried's passing. She was a wonderful teacher and was so encouraging of me as one of the more enthusiastic students in her class. I'll never forget how excited she was when I made a color-coded graph to help other students calculate what grade they needed on their final exam to pass. She built up my confidence and made me feel like I had something special to offer my peers by enjoying my studies, even if that made me a bit of an outlier. I'm sending warmth and condolences to the whole family - you will be in my thoughts. -Gabriella

Gabriella - September 03, 2025 at 08:42 PM

VR

“ Gretchen, Alan, & Douglas: We are so sorry to learn of Mildred's illness and death. She lived a wonderfully full life, capped off by the exquisite pleasure of helping raise her grandchildren. Holding you in our hearts, Patrick, Victoria, & Allison Rogers.

Victoria Rogers - September 02, 2025 at 09:56 AM

SG

“ I am extending my deepest condolences to you all in the passing of Mildred who is one of the sweetest, humblest people I came to know and love in a very short time at Grace Lutheran Church. I cannot explain it but it was like an instant connection. Mildred always made others feel welcome and accepted . Her hugs during the showing of peace at mass brought peace and a sense of belonging. My heart goes out to you all. I just wanted you all to know that I am praying for you as I have been and that your beautiful Mildred will always be remembered as she was special to many❤️🙏 Sincerely,
Sherri Girard
Enfield, CT

Sherri Girard - August 27, 2025 at 05:38 AM

GA

“ Mrs. Unfried was one of the most memorable and caring teachers that I ever had, and became a family friend and close friend of my grandmother for years. In addition to being a truly excellent teacher, her genuine and ongoing enthusiasm and excitement at her student's successes and milestones was such a special gift.

Gabi - August 25, 2025 at 12:16 PM

KG

“ Gretchen, this is a beautiful memorial for your beautiful mother. I will miss her so much. Minya was always so caring and loving to Lynne, Marc and me. What a blessing it was to be able to see, talk and hold her hand in her last month. Our loving thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Karin Goodfellow - August 24, 2025 at 03:33 PM